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EXAMINER

VAN BRAMER, JOHN W

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3622

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/208,998	<b>Applicant(s)</b> GANESAN ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> John Van Bramer	<b>Art Unit</b> 3622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 35-69 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 35-69 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 March 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on December 8, 2005 has been entered.

### ***Response to Amendment***

2. The amendment filed December 8, 2005 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132(a) because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132(a) states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows: The specification and the original claims indicate that the purchasers account number is not transmitted to the seller. There is neither a basis nor any suggestion that this would also limit the invention to include that the information received by the seller "does not include any portion of the account number". Additionally, there is neither a basis nor any suggestion that "the information received at the financial institution or financial institution representative does not include any portion of an account number of the purchaser".

Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

3. The amendment filed on December 8, 2005 under 37 CFR 1.111 is sufficient to overcome the Sandberg-Diment (U.S. Patent Number: 5,826,2345) and Kravitz (U.S. Patent Number: 6,029,150) reference. The response cancelled Claims 1 – 34 which represented all previously pending claims. The response added Claims 35 – 69; thus, the currently pending claims considered below are Claims 35 – 69.

#### ***Claim Objections***

4. Claim 52 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Should the payment option chosen by the purchaser consist of the first payment option, the claim provides no further limitations than those presented in Claim 51.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claims 35 – 69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claims 35 – 44, which are newly added in the amendment filed December 8, 2005 impose the limitations that “the information received at the financial institution or financial institution representative does not include any portion of an account number of the purchaser”. In order for the specification to enable such a limitation, it must include a mechanism for checking all information sent from the purchaser to ensure that no portion (not even a single digit) of the account number is transmitted to the financial institution. The specification does not provide any mechanism to verify that such a limitation could be imposed. The specification indicates that the purchaser logs into the financial institution with a user name and password. The purchaser then sends information relating to the product and the purchase price (Page 16, lines 3 – 17) to the financial institution. In order to ensure that the user name, password, product information, and purchase price does not include any portion of an account number of the purchaser this data would need to be filtered at the purchasers machine, prior to transmission. However, such filtering, would potentially remove critical data with regard to accessing the financial institution (if the user name or password contained a number that is also in the users account

number) or completing the transaction (if the purchase price contained a number that was also in the users account number).

Claims 45 – 55 suffer from the same deficiencies above, however the limitation has been extended to ensure that the seller does not receive any portion of the purchasers account number, from either the purchaser themselves or the financial institution. This would require that the above stated filtering would also need to be implemented on the financial institutions networking device in order to ensure that the verification of available funds (described in the specification on page 18, lines 12 – 29) does not include any numbers associated with purchasers account number.

Claims 56 – 69 suffer from the same deficiencies as Claims 35 – 44 above, and extend the limitation to ensuring that the sellers networking device is capable of filtering the data it receives in order to exclude the purchasers account number. Providing such a capability in the sellers networking device would require that the seller was provided the users account number at some point a priori, which is also not disclosed in the specification.

Additionally, the limitations included in Claims 35 - 69 would teach away from the following objective stated in the specification:

“It is another objective of the present invention to provide a technique for conducting cashless transactions which **does not require disclosure of sensitive account related information.**” (emphasis added by examiner)

Ensuring that no portion of an account number is sent to the seller or financial institution, would provide the seller with more information regarding the account number than simply ensuring that the account number is not transmitted. As an example, a credit card number typically has up to 16 digits, each digit represented by a number between 0 and 9. If an account number were created with a random allocation of these numbers there would be  $16^{10}$  (10,995,116,277,776) possible account numbers. However, if the seller or financial institution received any transmission from the purchaser that contained numbers, such as a confirmation to purchase an item for \$8.99, then the seller would know that my account number does not contain the numbers 8 and 9. Therefore, my account number could only be one of  $16^8$  (4,294,967,296) possible numbers. This represents a decrease of over 10 trillion possible account numbers. Hence, sensitive account information has been disclosed which significantly reduces the security of the purchasers account number.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical

Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

8. Claims 35 – 50 and 56 - 69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Egendorf (U.S. Patent Number: 5,794,221).

Claim 35: Egendorf discloses a method of conducting a transaction via one or more networks, comprising:

- a. Receiving, at a financial institute or financial institute representative, information associated with a product intended to be purchased by a purchaser from a seller at a purchase price, wherein the information received at the financial institute or financial institute representative does not include any portion of an account number of the purchaser, and wherein the purchaser does not transmit any portion of the account number to the seller. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)
- b. Verifying, at the financial institute or financial institute representative, that an account associated with the purchaser includes sufficient funds to cover the transfer, to the seller, of a payment for the purchase price. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)
- c. If the financial institute or financial institute representative verifies that the account associated with the purchaser includes sufficient funds to cover the transfer, transmitting an authorization from the financial institute or

financial institute representative to the seller to proceed with the transaction. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 36: Egendorf discloses the method of Claim 35, further comprising directing, from the financial institute or financial institute representative, a transfer of funds from the account associated with the purchaser. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 37: Egendorf discloses the method of Claim 35, further comprising: directing, from the financial institute or financial institute representative, a transfer of funds to an account of the seller. (Col. 6, lines 47 – 67)

Claim 38: Egendorf discloses the method of Claim 37, wherein the step of directing, from the financial institute or financial institute representative, the transfer of funds from the account to the account of the seller is responsive to the financial institute or financial institute representative receiving a notice of delivery of goods from the seller. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 39: Egendorf discloses the method of Claim 35, further comprising: receiving, at the financial institute or financial institute representative, a purchaser identity prior to the financial institute or financial institute representative verifying that the account of the purchaser includes sufficient funds. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 40: Egendorf discloses the method of Claim 35, further comprising: subsequent to verifying that the account associated with the purchaser includes sufficient funds, and prior to the transmitting of an authorization from the financial institute or financial institute representative to the seller, receiving, at the financial

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institute or financial institute representative, an authorization from the purchaser for the withdrawal of funds from the account. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 41: Egendorf discloses the method of Claim 35, wherein the financial institute or financial institute representative comprises a financial institute network device.

(Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 42: Egendorf discloses the method of Claim 35, wherein the information associated with a product comprises the purchase price or a product description.

(Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 43: Egendorf discloses the method of Claim 42, wherein the information associated with a product comprises an indicator identifying the seller or the

purchaser. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 44: Egendorf discloses the method of Claim 35, further comprising transmitting an authorization from the financial institute or financial institute representative to the seller to proceed with the transaction if the financial institute or financial institute representative verifies that the account associated with the purchaser does not include sufficient funds to cover the transfer, but includes overdraft protection. It is inherent that when the account is a bank account, with overdraft protection that an authorization be provided as long as the amount of the transaction does not exceed the overdraft limit. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 45: Egendorf discloses a method implemented in conducting a transaction, comprising:

- a. Downloading, from a seller to a purchaser, information associated with a product available for purchase by the purchaser, wherein the information associated with the product includes pricing information. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)
- b. Providing, by the seller, at least one payment option selectable by the purchaser. (Col. 2, lines 28 – 36)
- c. Receiving a payment selection at the seller, where the payment selection results in pricing information being provided to a financial institute or financial institute representation. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)
- d. Receiving, at the seller, an authorization from the financial institute or financial institute representative to proceed with a sale of the product to the purchaser if the financial institute or financial institute representative verifies that an account associated with the purchaser includes sufficient funds to cover the payment of an amount specified by the pricing information, wherein the seller does not receive any portion of an account number corresponding to the account associated with the purchaser, and wherein the financial institute or financial institute representative does not receive any portion of the account number from the seller or purchaser at the time of the transaction. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 46: Egendorf discloses the method of Claim 45, wherein funds are transferred from the account associated with the purchaser to an account of the

seller following the receipt, at the seller, of the authorization from the financial institute or financial institute representative. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 47: Egendorf discloses the method of Claim 45, further comprising:  
transmitting a notice of delivery of goods from the seller to the financial institute or financial institute representative, and wherein the funds are transferred from the account associated with the purchaser to an account of the seller following receipt of the notice of delivery by the financial institute or financial institute representative. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 48: Egendorf discloses the method of Claim 45, wherein the information associated with a product available for purchase includes a product description summary. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 49: Egendorf discloses the method of Claim 45, wherein the payment selection includes purchaser information provided by the purchaser. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 50: Egendorf discloses the method of Claim 45, wherein the financial institute or financial institute representative comprises a financial institute network device. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 56: Egendorf discloses a system for conducting a transaction via one or more networks, comprising:

- a. A first network device, associated with a seller, operable to receive information identifying a product intended to be purchased by a

purchaser at a purchase price, but not operable to identify, via one or more communications received from the purchaser at the time of the transaction, any portion of an account number associated with an account of the purchaser for the transfer of funds to pay for the product.

(Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

- b. A second network device, associated with a financial institute or financial institute representative and in communication with the first network device, wherein the second network device is operable to:
  - i. Receive, from the first network device, product information including the purchase price. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)
  - ii. Verify that the account of the purchaser includes sufficient funds to cover the transfer, to the seller, of a payment for the purchase price. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)
  - iii. Transmit an authorization to the first network device to proceed with the transaction if the second network device verifies that the account of the purchaser includes sufficient funds to cover the transfer, wherein the second network device is not operable to receive, from the seller or purchaser at the time of the transaction, any portion of an account number that corresponds to the account of the purchaser. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 57: Egendorf discloses the system of Claim 56, wherein the second network device is further operable to direct a transfer of funds from the account of the purchaser. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 58: Egendorf discloses the system of Claim 56, wherein the second network device is further operable to direct a transfer of funds to an account of the seller. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 59: Egendorf discloses the system of Claim 58, wherein the wherein the second network device is further operable to direct the transfer of funds from the account of the purchaser to the account of the seller responsive to the second network device receiving a notice of delivery of goods from the seller. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 60: Egendorf discloses the system of Claim 56, wherein the second network device is further operable to receive a purchaser identity prior to verifying that the account of the purchaser includes sufficient funds to pay for the product. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 61: Egendorf discloses the system of Claim 56, wherein the second network device comprises a financial institute network device. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 62: Egendorf discloses the system of Claim 56, wherein the product information further comprises a product description. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 63: Egendorf discloses the system of Claim 56, wherein the product information further comprises the identity of the seller. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 64: Egendorf discloses the system of Claim 56, wherein the product information further comprises the identity of the purchaser. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 65: Egendorf discloses the system of Claim 56, wherein the second network device is operable to transmit an authorization to the seller to proceed with the transaction if the account of the purchaser does not include sufficient funds to cover the transfer, but does include overdraft protection. It is inherent that when the account is a bank account, with overdraft protection that an authorization be provided as long as the amount of the transaction does not exceed the overdraft limit. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 66: Egendorf discloses an article of manufacture for conducting a cashless transaction, comprising:

- a. A computer readable storage medium on at least one device associated with a financial institute or a financial institute representative. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)
- b. Computer programming stored on the storage medium, wherein the stored computer programming is configured to be readable from the computer readable storage medium by a computer and thereby cause the computer to operate so as to:

- i. Receive, responsive to a communication from a purchaser to a seller that identifies a product to be purchased but does not include any portion of an account number associated with an account of the purchaser to transfer funds to the seller, information associated with the product intended to be purchased by a purchaser from the seller at a purchase price, wherein the information received includes a purchase price of the product but does not include any portion of the account number of the purchaser. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)
- ii. Identify the account of the purchaser. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)
- iii. Verify that the account of the purchaser includes sufficient funds to cover the transfer, to the seller, of a payment for the purchase price. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)
- iv. Transmit an authorization to the seller to proceed with the transaction if the account of the purchaser includes sufficient funds to cover the transfer. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 67: Egendorf discloses the article of Claim 66, wherein the computer programming further causes the computer to operate so as to direct a transfer of funds from the account of the purchaser. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 68: Egendorf discloses the article of Claim 66, wherein the computer programming further causes the computer to operate so as to direct a transfer of funds to an account of the seller. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 69: Egendorf discloses the article of Claim 68, wherein the computer programming further causes the computer to operate so as to direct the transfer of funds from the account of the purchaser to the account of the seller responsive to receiving a notice of delivery of goods from the seller. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 51 - 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Egendorf (U.S. Patent Number: 5,794,211).

Claim 51: Egendorf discloses a method of conducting a transaction via one or more networks, comprising:

- a. Downloading product information and a plurality of payment options from a seller to a purchaser, wherein the product information includes pricing information. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12 and Col. 2, lines 28 – 36). While Egendorf is silent with regard to other methods of payment

outside the scope of the invention, Official Notice is taken that it is old and well known to provide customers the option to pay for online transaction with a plurality of payment options including the use of a credit card, where in the credit card number is directly transmitted to the seller in order to purchase goods. Originally, these numbers were transmitted in plain text. Concerns with regard to the security of such plain text transmissions prompted companies and researchers to begin searching for alternative techniques such as transmitting credit card number over an encrypted data stream like SSL (Secure Socket Layer) which was introduced in 1996. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to allow retailers to provide transactions using the standard methodology. One would have been motivated to do so in order to ensure customers whose service providers do not offer the disclosed invention were still able to purchase items at the online store.

- b. While Egendorf is silent with regard to the additional purchase options offered by an online retailer, Official notice is taken that it is old and well known for retailers communicate customers credit card numbers and purchase amounts to the credit card provider in order to obtain remuneration for the items sold to a customer using said credit card. One would have been motivated to do so in order to obtain payment for the items sold to the customer.

- c. If the payment option selected by the purchaser is the second payment option, transmitting the product information from the seller to a financial institute or financial institute representative and receiving an authorization from the financial institute or financial institute representative to proceed with the transaction, wherein the seller does not receive, from the purchaser, any portion of an account number identifying the purchaser account, and wherein the seller and purchaser do not communicate any portion of an account number identifying the purchaser account to the financial institute or financial institute representative at the time of the transaction. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12 and Col. 2, lines 28 – 36)

Claim 52: Egendorf discloses the method of Claim 51, wherein if the payment option selected by the purchaser is the second payment option, the seller receives an authorization from the financial institute or financial institute representative if the financial institute or financial institute representative verifies that the purchaser deposit account includes sufficient funds to cover a transfer to the seller of an amount specified by the pricing information. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 53: Egendorf discloses the method of Claim 51, further comprising receiving, at the seller, payment of the amount specified by the pricing information from the financial institute or financial institute representative. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 54: Egendorf discloses the method of Claim 51, wherein the product information includes purchaser information. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

Claim 55: Egendorf discloses the method of Claim 51, wherein the product information includes the identity of the seller if the second payment option is selected by the purchaser. (Col. 5, line 18 through Col. 6, line 12)

### ***Response to Arguments***

11. Applicant's arguments with respect to Claims 35 –69 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Sandberg-Diment (U.S. Patent Number: 5,826,245), which is directed towards providing third party verification between a purchaser and a seller.

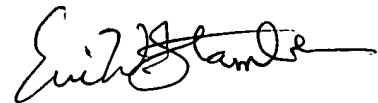
Kravits (U.S. Patent Number: 6029150), which discloses a secure transactions between a purchaser and a seller, whereby a third party is used for verification and authentication.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Van Bramer whose telephone number is (571) 272-8198. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am - 5pm Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber can be reached on (571) 272-6724. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

jvb



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600